

Senate Resolution 790

By: Senators Goggans of the 7th, Thomas of the 54th, Smith of the 52nd, Staton of the 18th, Douglas of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing February 12, 2008, as
2 "Rural Health Day"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is a nonprofit advocate for rural
4 health care consumers and the dedicated health professionals who serve rural Georgia and
5 encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 110 rural counties with over 1.6 million residents, but only one-half
7 as many physicians as urban counties, and the availability and quality of health care facilities
8 and professional services continues to decline; and

9 WHEREAS, rural counties have higher rates of cancer and cardiovascular mortality, infant
10 mortality, diabetes, children at risk for obesity, and the health care demand posed by the
11 growing uninsured population and elderly population far exceeds the local resources; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Development Council recognizes that the limited availability
13 and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's distressed
14 economy and deter industry recruitment; and

15 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
16 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, and access to
17 funding for aging health care facilities.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
19 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize February 12,
20 2008, as "Rural Health Day."

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Rural Health Association.